

**NEWS
FROM**



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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Gephardt and Mitchell health care bills are no better than the Clinton plan, charges Libertarian Party

WASHINGTON, DC — “Both the Gephardt health care bill and the Mitchell bill are still the Clinton approach to government-run health care,” said Libertarian Party Chairman Steve Dasbach today. “And the Clinton plan by any other name will still wreck American health care.”

With the House only a week away from beginning floor debate on health care reform, Dasbach, head of America’s third-largest party, said, “We’re not surprised that President Clinton has endorsed both these bills. They both increase government control, increases taxes, and increase federal bureaucracy — all elements of the original Clinton plan.”

Dasbach said the 1,400-page bill proposed by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME), “Still contains a job-destroying mandate, however deferred. It requires a government-designed standard benefits package that will limit consumer choice. It contains disguised price controls in the form of a tax on the growth of insurance premiums, which will inevitably lead to rationing. And it will make the private market for health insurance increasingly unstable and expensive, since there are no incentives for consumers to be price sensitive.”

Dasbach said the bill proposed by House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO) is even worse.

“It vastly expands Medicare, creating a new Medicare Part C, that would cover 95 to 115 million more Americans,” said Dasbach. “The real motivation for Medicare Part C can be found in the fact that this new program will bring a total of 130 million-plus Americans into a government-run health care system. This means that about half of all Americans would be receiving their health care from the federal government. Gephardt’s plan is just a Trojan Horse for a single-payer system.”

The Libertarian Party advocates a smaller, less expensive, less intrusive government. Its platform calls for vigorous defense of the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, free trade, private charity, and individual liberty and responsibility.

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